

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 /072 W  
-----091121Z 093645 /20  
R 091100Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PLAB, FR  
SUBJECT: THE CGT: ONE STEP FORWARD

1. DURING A TV INTERVIEW LAST NIGHT, THE CGT'S COMMUNIST GENERAL SECRETARY GEORGES SEGUY SAID THAT AGREEMENT ON A PLAN OF ACTION HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN HIS FEDERATION, ITS CLOSE ALLY THE CFDT, AND THE TEACHERS FEDERATION FEN. IF, AS SEEMS LIKELY, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT BACK DOWN, THEN A NATIONAL 24-HOUR STRIKE WILL BE CALLED BY THE THREE FEDERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD MAY 24 TO JUNE 2. SEGUY THEN (AGAIN) CALLED ON ALL GENUINE GRADE UNIONISTS TO JOIN IN ANY SUCH ACTION CALLED AGAINST THE BARRE PLAN.

2. THIS AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A TACTICAL VICTORY FOR THE FEN. ALTHOUGH ITS PRESIDENT HENRY SOLEMLY CLAIMED THAT IT WAS THE OTHER TWO FEDERATIONS WHO HAD GONE ALONG WITH AN FEN PROPOSAL FOR A 24-HOUR STRIKE IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, HE DID NOT EMERGE FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS EMPTY-HANDED. FEN DID NOT ACCEPT THE MAY 17 DATE SEGUY WAS PUSHING, AND IT WON AGREEMENT THAT THE ACCORD BETWEEN THE THREE

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FEDERATIONS MUST NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF A POSSIBLE GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONGST ALL THE UNIONSON SOME OTHER JOINT ACTION. WITH THAT, THE DOOR IS OPEN TO ANY POSSIBLE MANEUVER THAT MIGHT YET BE MADE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE OUT OF SEGUY'S HANDS.

3. SO THE SPOTLIGHT NOW TURNS TO THE FO CONGRESS IN

VICHY, MAY 10-13. THE FO CIVIL SERVANTS FEDERATION HAS PUBLICALLY INDICATED THAT IT WILL PROBABLY JOIN IN A GENERAL ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTION AND THE FO GAS AND ELECTRIC WORKERS TELL US PRIVATELY THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO JOIN ANY SUCH MOVE. THIS POSES A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR FO LEADER BERGERON. AS HAS BEEN REPORTED, THE FO PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS, REFLECTING THEIR MEMBERSHIPS' MOOD, ARE OPPOSED TO ANY ADVENTURES AND, PARTICULARLY, TO ANY STRIKES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LEADER OF THE CIVIL SERVANTS FEDERATION, ONE OF THE FO'S MAINSTAYS, TELLS US THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE, POLITICALLY OR PRACTICALLY, TO TRY TO KEEP THE MEMBERSHIP FROM GOING OUT ON A STRIKE TOO SHOULD THE CGT-CFDT-FEN CALLE ONE. (HE FEELS THAT HIS PEOPLE WOULD NOT CONFINE THEMSELVES TO A 24-HOUR WALKOUT EITHER.) IT IS UP TO BERGERON THEN TO FIND A WAY TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO CAMPS, AND IF ANYONE CAN DO IT, HE CAN.

4. MEANWHILE, THE CGT AIDED BY THE CFDT IS FOLLOWING A POLICY OF MANEUVER AND CONTROLLED ACTION. IT HAS CALLED UPON ITS MEMBERSHIP TO DEMONSTRATE ON ALL SUITABLE LEVELS MILITANCY IN DEFENSE OF EMPLOYMENT (E.G. FILING A FORMAL COMPLAINT WITH THE LABOR INSPECTORATE AGAINST A US AIRLINE FOR BRINGING IN A US MECHANIC FROM GERMANY ON THE EQUIVALENT OF TDY

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 /072 W  
-----091119Z 093762 /20

R 091100Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2585  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

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WHILE NOT PUTTING A FRENCH PART-TIME EMPLOY ON FULL SALARY); THREATENING SELECTIVE FACTORY OCCUPATIONS; AND OF COURSE EVERYWHERE SEEKING ALLIANCES WITH THE OTHER UNIONS ON BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES.

5. THE CGT'S AIM IN ALL THESE OPERATIONS IS QUITE CLEAR: PAVE THE WAY FOR ITS EFFECTIVE DOMINATION OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT. YET, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ALL THESE MANEUVERS GOES UNCOMMENTED UPON IN THE LOCAL PRESS. (AT LEAST ONE WELL-KNOWN SPECIALIST ON THE LABOR SCENE HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO OFFER EVIDENCE, IN HIS PUBLICATION, THAT THOSE NEWSPAPERS INTERESTED IN A VICTORY OF THE LEFT, PARTICULARLY LE MONDE, ARE DELIBERATELY SUPPRESSING REPORTS WHICH WOULD REVEAL ISSUES DIVIDING THE SOCIALISTS FROM THEIR COMMUNIST ALLIES.) IN THAT CONNECTION, THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT MITTERRAND IS AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CGT'S ACTIONS AND CONCERNED OVER THEIR POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD THEY BE SUCCESSFUL. WE KNOW FROM THE FO THAT THEY AND THE PS PRIVATELY ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT, EXCHANGING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIEWS AND IDEAS, AND THE TIES BETWEEN THE FEN LEADERSHIP AND THE SOCIALISTS ARE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. FOR THAT REASON, WE CANNOT HELP BUT SPECULATE THAT THE FEN'S POSITION THAT ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE CGT AND CFDT MUST NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF SOME BROADER ACTION INVOLVING ALL UNIONS MAY BE A HINT OF WHAT COULD COME OUT OF THE VICHY CONGRESS. (SEE PARIS 12857 FOR BACKGROUND.)  
GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

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